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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20230

THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE  
THE HONORABLE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIRS:

I have the honor to transmit to you the Report on the U.S. Metric Study, which was conducted by the National Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce.

Thousands of individuals, firms and organized groups, representative of our society, participated in the Study. After weighing the extensive evidence presented by these participants, this report concludes that the United States should change to the metric system through a coordinated national program.

I agree with this conclusion, and therefore recommend

- That the United States change to the International Metric System deliberately and carefully;
- That this be done through a coordinated national program;
- That the Congress assign the responsibility for guiding the change, and anticipating the kinds of special problems described in the report, to a central coordinating body responsive to all sectors of our society;
- That within this guiding framework, detailed plans and timetables be worked out by these sectors themselves;
- That early priority be given to educating every American schoolchild and the public at large to think in metric terms;
- That immediate steps be taken by the Congress to foster U.S. participation in international standards activities;
- That in order to encourage efficiency and minimize the overall costs to society, the general rule should be that any changeover costs shall "lie where they fall";
- That the Congress, after deciding on a plan for the nation, establish a target date ten years ahead, by which time the U.S. will have become predominantly, though not exclusively, metric;
- That there be a firm government commitment to this goal.

The Department of Commerce stands ready to provide whatever further assistance the Congress may require in working out a national plan and putting it into effect.

Respectfully submitted,

*Maurice H. Stans*

Maurice H. Stans  
Secretary of Commerce

*From NBS Final Report to Congress*  
*#345*

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